



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,232	01/26/2004	Aaron Stephen Meyers	310480.01	1750
22971 7590 04/09/2008 MICROSOFT CORPORATION ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052-6399				
EXAMINER PAULA, CESAR B				
ART UNIT 2178		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 04/09/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

roks@microsoft.com

ntovar@microsoft.com

a-rydore@microsoft.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,232

Applicant(s)

MEYERS ET AL.

Examiner

CESAR B. PAULA

Art Unit

2178

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9,18-21 and 24-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9,18-21 and 24-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the RCE amendment filed on 1/18/2008.

This action is made Non-Final.

2. In the amendment, claims 10-15, and 36-37 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 18-21, 24-35 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 21, and 34-35 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 120. This application is a CIP of US application No.10/627,180 filed on 7/25/2003.

Drawings

4. The drawings filed on 1/26/2004 have been accepted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, and 9-15, 18-21, 24-35 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Getting Results with Microsoft Office 97, hereinafter Office, Microsoft Corp. 1997, pages 448-457, 563-573, new pages 169-178.

Regarding independent claim 1, Office discloses the creation, and displaying of pivot a table view (including the format of the base or template view that is used for all the views), from many format or views of a database, for different sales representative, and for displaying data found in a database in a quick way. The pivot table includes descriptive data, and underlying data defining the pivot table, such as drop-down button which links to various users, several page fields, rows, columns, cells for relating the numerical data to be found in various views or reports, textual descriptions explaining the categories found in the database, the views, the fields and how the data relate to each other, such as month to month, representative's name, etc., (pages 563-568)-- *accessing a relational abstraction of a data store, the relational abstraction including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, relations between the views, and metadata layer that includes one or more objects that contain properties describing the data store, the views, the fields, and the relations; receiving an indication of a base view from among one or more views in the relational abstraction; wherein creating the customized report comprises including only fields constrained by the base view.*

Furthermore, Office teaches a wizard for the generation of a pivot table report which has a drop-down button, which is defined by an underlying format selected at the creation of the table, to discover the data hidden in the database using a path from one user in the view to another user(s) in the database, which for example allows you to view the summary for each

salesperson found in the database in a company in accordance to the categories designed into the table report (page 565, 568)— *providing a user interface for creating a report that includes at least one drill link; providing the at least one drill link on a field constrained by the metadata layer of the relational abstraction based upon a relation path from the base view.*

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568).

Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to see the names to several salespersons, so that the selection of a name displays a different data view—a *second report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 18, which depends on claim 1, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list—the *drill link includes a reference to an object that is based upon at least one relational abstraction object having a base view that is a destination view of a relation in the sequence* (page 568).

Regarding claim 19, which depends on claim 18, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table—the *reference is to a report template* (page 568).

Regarding claim 20, which depends on claim 18, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name—*an expression*-- selected last from the drop-down list (page 568).

Regarding independent claim 21, Office discloses the creation, and displaying of pivot a table view (including the format of the base or template view that is used for all the views), from many format or views of a database, for different sales representative, and for displaying data found in a database in a quick way. The pivot table includes several page fields, rows, columns, cells for relating the numerical data to be found in various views or reports, textual descriptions explaining the categories found in the database, the views, the fields and how the data relate to each other, such as month to month, representative's name, etc., and underlying data for formatting the table and its components (pages 563-568)-- *accessing a relational abstraction of a data store, the relational abstraction including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, relations between the views, and metadata layer that includes one or more objects that contain properties describing the data store, the views, the fields, and the relations; wherein creating the first report comprises including only fields constrained by a base view in the relational abstraction.*

Furthermore, Office teaches a wizard for the generation of a of a pivot table report which has a drop-down button, which is defined by an underlying format selected at the creation of the table, to discover the data hidden in the database using a path from one user in the view to another user(s) in the database, which for example allows you to view the summary for each

salesperson found in the database in a company. The summary is displayed as you select one of various names displayed by the button (page 565, 568)-- *providing a user interface for creating a first report containing at least one drill link, providing the at least one drill link on a field constrained by the metadata layer of the relational abstraction based upon a relation path from the base view; upon selection of a drill link in the first report, extracting information associated with the drill link; and generating a second report using the extracted information.*

Regarding claim 24, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name—an *expression*-- selected last from the drop-down list (page 568).

Regarding claim 25, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *the reference is to a report template* (page 568).

Regarding claim 26, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *the reference is to another report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 27, which depends on claim 25, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data corresponding to the various names is displayed onto the table— *a plurality of templates* (page 568).

Regarding claim 28, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using a name selected last from the drop-down list. The data is displayed onto a table relating the various data (page 568).

Regarding claim 29, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using various names selected last from the drop-down list— *reference to the first report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 30, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve data from the database using various names selected last from the drop-down list— *reference to the second report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 31, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the names to be displayed on the pivot table— *the drill link includes a reference to the context of the drill link within the first report* (page 568).

Regarding claim 32, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the values associated with names from the database on the drop-down-list (page 568).

Regarding claim 33, which depends on claim 21, Office discloses that the drop-down button allows you to retrieve the names to be displayed on the pivot table (page 568). The names are used to filter information related to the selected names.

Claims 34-35 are directed towards a computer system for implementing the steps found in claims 1, and 21 respectively, and therefore is are similarly rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4-6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Office.

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568).

Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is DHTML format*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have converted Excel to DHTML, and, for all the reasons found in Office, including taking advantage of the tabular structure of Excel to publish documents over the web, and taking advantage of the features found in DHTML.

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is XML format*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have converted Excel to XML, and, for all the reasons found in Office, including taking advantage of the tabular structure of Excel to publish documents over the web, and taking advantage of the features found in XML.

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report format is PDF format*. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have converted Excel to PDF, and, for all the reasons found in Office, including taking advantage of the tabular structure of Excel to publish documents over the web, and taking advantage of the portability features found in PDF.

9. Claim 7 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Office, in view of Savage(USPub. # 2004/0075683 A1, 4/22/2004, filed on 10/16/2002).

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 2, Office discloses the creation, and publishing of a pivot table over the web using the HTML format (pages 448-449, 546, 563-568). Office fails to explicitly teach *the report is SVG format*. However, Savage teaches creating graphical reports using SVG format. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined Office, and , for all the reasons found in Savage, including the creation of graphics which are lightweight and powerful (0039).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 1/18/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument concerning claim 1, in that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., 'there is no disclosure in Office Results 97 of the (1) creation of a base view from among one or more views in the relational abstraction' (page 9, parag.3)) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The claim recites receiving an indication of a base view from among several views, but this is not the same as creating a base view from among different views. Office teaches the creation, and displaying of pivot a table view (including the format of

Art Unit: 2178

the base or template view that is used for all the views), from many format or views of a database (565,568).

Moreover, the Applicant indicates that Office does not show the constraining of fields by the base view or of a drill link by the metadata layer (page 9, parag.3-page 11). The Examiner disagrees, because Office shows the generation of a of a pivot table report which has a drop-down button, which is defined by an underlying format selected at the creation of the table, to discover the data hidden in the database using a path from one user in the view to another user(s) in the database, which for example allows you to view the summary for each salesperson found in the database in a company. The summary is displayed as you select one of various names displayed by the button (page 565, 568).

Claims 3-7, 9-15, and 18-20 are rejected at least based on their dependency on claim 1, and the rationale above.

Claims 21, and 34-35 are rejected at least based the rationale above regarding claim 1.

Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Frazier et al. (Pat. # 2003/0110129 A1), Danaher et al. (Pat. # 2003/0149659 A1), Kothandaraman et al. (Pat. # 2005/0080801 A1), Hanaman et al. (Pat. # 6,963,826 B2), and Yeh et al. (Pat. # 7,051,038 B1).

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (571) 272-4128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on (571) 272-4124. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, go to <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have any questions about access to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866 217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, please call 800-786-9199 or 571 272-1000 (USA or Canada).

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Art Unit: 2178

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

- **(571)-273-8300** (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

/CESAR B PAULA/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178
--

4/7/2008